CLAIMS

1) A skin massage device (10);

the device comprising a handset (100; 200; 300) connected to a machine body; said handset (100; 200; 300) in turn comprising a chamber (102; 202) closed by a deformable membrane (103; 203) which at least partly adheres to a patient's skin (S) by virtue of a vacuum generated in said chamber (102; 202) by a vacuum generating device (12);

and the device (10) being characterized by comprising means (13) for producing a variable vacuum in said chamber (102; 202) to deform said membrane (103; 203) and so lift, fold, compress, and smooth the patient's skin (S) as to perform the massage cycle set by the operator.

2) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said membrane (103; 203) has projections and recesses to assist the formation of folds of tissue on which to exert a given pressure to perform the desired massage.

3) A device (10) as claimed in any one of the foregoing Claims, wherein said membrane (103; 203) varies in thickness so as to yield differently at different points and so deform differently to further assist the formation of, and application of the desired pressure on, folds of skin (S).

4) A device (10) as claimed in any one of the foregoing Claims, wherein said membrane (103) comprises a

central portion (103b) having at least one hole (103c) for lifting a portion (S1) of skin (S); and two lateral portions (103d, 103e) which are moved in the directions defined by double arrows (F2, F3) by the vacuum cycles inside the chamber (102).

5) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said central portion (103b), on one side, and said lateral portions (103d, 103e), on the other, of said membrane (103) are curved slightly and oppositely concave.

6) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said central portion (103b) of said membrane (103) is convex with respect to the inside of said chamber (102), and said lateral portions (103d, 103e) are concave with respect to said chamber (102).

7) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said lateral portions (103d, 103e) are thicker than said central portion (103b).

8) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said lateral portions (103d, 103e) each have two projections (103f, 103g).

9) A device (10) as claimed in any one of the foregoing Claims, wherein said membrane (103; 203) is disposable.

10) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said membrane (203) comprises a central through hole (204); an ultrasound emitting device (210) being housed in said central through hole (204).

11) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 10, wherein

said membrane (203) also comprises lateral portions (203d, 203e) which are moved in the directions of double arrows (F2, F3) by a variable vacuum in said chamber (102), so as to deform said membrane (203) to lift, fold, compress, and smooth the patient's skin (S).

12) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 11, wherein each lateral portion (203d, 203e) has through holes (212) by which to lift and treat portions (S2, S3) of skin (S) as required, while a central portion (S1) of skin is subjected solely to the action of said ultrasound emitting device (210).

13) A device (10) as claimed in any one of the foregoing Claims, wherein said handset (100; 200; 300) has means for activating and programming said device.

14) A device (10) as claimed in any one of the foregoing Claims, wherein said means (11) are programmable to perform pulsating treatment cycles of a patient's skin (S) as determined by an operator.